

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011
DRAFTED BY EA:JEFF BADER
APPROVED BY EA:JEFF BADER
-----039143 070244Z /61
P 070109Z JUL 78 ZFF5
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY SUVA PRIORITY 9049

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 171110

NODIS
PLEASE PASS ASST SECY HOLBROOKE ONLY UPON ARRIVAL

FOLLOWING REPEAT SEOUL 5836 SENT ACTION SECSTATE JUL 6, 1978

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5836

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, KS, US
SUBJECT: KIM DONG-JO AFFAIR

1. BASED ON CONVERSATIONS CHARGE HAS HAD RECENTLY WITH BOTH FOREIGN MINISTER AND KIM KYONG WON (BLUE HOUSE), IT IS CLEAR THAT ROKG WILL NOT TAKE ANY FURTHER INITIATIVES ON KIM DONG-JO AFFAIR AND PROBABLY ON ANY MATTERS RELATING TO KOREAGATE.

2. ROK RECOGNIZES RISKS INVOLVED IN THIS POLICY, BUT HAS COME TO CONCLUSION THAT IT CANNOT INFLUENCE EVENTS IN U.S. PARTICULARLY IN CONGRESS AND THEREFORE HAS DECIDED TO STAND ON PRINCIPLE (E.G. SOVEREIGNTY) AND ON SELF-RESPECT. THERE IS, AT THE CORE, A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF RESIGNATION AND
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ORIENTAL FATALISM INVOLVED AS WELL AS A PRACTICAL PERCEPTION, AT LEAST IN ROK EYES, THAT STORY HAS RUN ITS COURSE AND THAT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC IS TIRED OF AFFAIR.

3. THERE IS ONE FURTHER ARGUMENT THAT WE HEAR FROM VARIOUS SOURCES. ROK DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT EVEN IF KIM DONG-JO WERE TO GIVE STATEMENT, THIS WOULD

CLOSE THE CASE. IT FEELS THAT THERE WOULD BE ANOTHER REQUEST AND THEN ANOTHER AND SO ON. ROK IS MOST ANXIOUS TO END MATTER ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, IN PART BECAUSE IT WISHES AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE GLEYSTEEEN TO START OFF WITH A CLEAN SLATE, UNENCUMBERED BY THE BURDENS OF THE PAST.

4. WE HAVE NOW PROBED AND LOBBIED ALL POSSIBLE CONCERNED ROK INSTITUTIONS. THE RESPONSE HAS UNANIMOUSLY BEEN NEGATIVE ON THE QUESTION OF FURTHER ACTIONS BY KIM DONG-JO. STERN
UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIBERY, CORRUPTION, POLICIES, CAT-B, INVESTIGATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE171110
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JEFF BADER
Enclosure: REPEAT SEOUL 5836
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: N780006-0114
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780785/aaaactor.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 68536479-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY, NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2085235
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> MCM 20040428
Subject: KIM DONG-JO AFFAIR
TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, KS, US, (KIM DONG-JO)
To: SUVA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/68536479-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014